

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 13-22 are presently active, Claims 11-12 are canceled without prejudice, Claims 7-10 and 13 are amended, and Claims 14-22 are added by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to because of informalities. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 4-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Furumoto (US Pub 2003/0225766)¹.

Regarding the objection to the abstract of the disclosure, the abstract is amended to address the informalities. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the abstract is overcome.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of Claim 11, Applicants note that MPEP 708.02 mentioned in the outstanding Office Action is related to Accelerated Examination. Since Applicants have not submitted a petition to make special under the accelerated examination program, the present application can contain multiple dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome because Claims 8-10 are amended to be directed to statutory subject matters. Further, Claims 4-6 are directed to a database access control apparatus, which is statutory subject matter. Claim 7 is directed to a proxy process server apparatus, which is

¹ The outstanding Office Action cites Imaeda et al. (US Pub 2006/0143189) instead of Furumoto. However, the Examiner indicated Furumoto as a correct reference for the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

statutory subject matter. Claims 11-12 are canceled without prejudice. Claim 13 is directed to a computer readable recording medium, which is statutory subject matter. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection is overcome.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding grounds for rejection, because in Applicants' view, independent Claims 1, 4 and 8 patentably distinguish over Furumoto as discussed below.

Claim 1 recites "the database access control apparatus sends an address of a usable proxy process server apparatus to the user apparatus in response to the request from the user apparatus," "the user apparatus connects to the proxy process server apparatus of the address to make a database access request," "the proxy process server apparatus makes a database process request to the database access control apparatus according to the database access request from the user apparatus," "the database access control apparatus performs a process on the database in response to the database process request from the proxy process server apparatus, and sends a process result to the proxy process sever apparatus" and "the proxy process server apparatus performs an additional process on the process result sent from the database access control apparatus, and sends an additional process result to the user apparatus."

First, the outstanding Office Action states that Furumoto discloses at paragraphs [0066] and [0067] that the database access control apparatus sends an address of a usable proxy process server apparatus to the user apparatus in response to the request from the user apparatus (Office Action at page 4, lines 8-10). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The paragraphs [0066] and [0067] of Furumoto merely describe that a database apparatus 400 receives a user ID, a password, a terminal ID an access route, a file name and the like from a user terminal 100, and the database apparatus 400 carries out user authentication and transmits information to make response to a request made from the user

terminal 100. However, Furumoto does not disclose that the database apparatus 400 sends *an address of a usable proxy process server apparatus* to the user terminal 100 in response to the request from the user terminal 100.

Thus, Furumoto fails to disclose “the database access control apparatus sends *an address of a usable proxy process server apparatus* to the user apparatus in response to the request from the user apparatus,” as recited in Claim 1.

Second, the outstanding Office Action states that Furumoto discloses at paragraph [0021] that the user apparatus connects to the proxy process server apparatus of the address to make a database access request (Office Action at page 4, lines 11-12). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Furumoto at paragraph [0021] describes that the user accesses to the database apparatus 30 and inputs a user ID, a password, and a file name. However, Furumoto does not disclose that the user accesses to the usable proxy process server apparatus, whose address has been sent from the database apparatus 30.

Thus, Furumoto fails to disclose “the user apparatus connects to *the proxy process server apparatus of the address to make a database access request*,” as recited in Claim 1.

Third, the outstanding Office Action states that Furumoto discloses at paragraph [0021] that the proxy process server apparatus makes a database process request to the database access control apparatus according to the database access request from the user apparatus (Office Action at page 4, lines 12-14). Applicants respectfully disagree.

As above, Furumoto at paragraph [0021] describes that the user accesses to the database apparatus 30 and inputs a user ID, a password, and a file name. However, Furumoto does not disclose *a proxy process server apparatus to make a database process request* to the database apparatus 30.

Thus, Furumoto fails to disclose “*the proxy process server apparatus makes a database process request* to the database access control apparatus according to the database access request from the user apparatus,” as recited in Claim 1.

Fourth, the outstanding Office Action states that Furumoto discloses at paragraph [0014] that the database access control apparatus performs a process on the database in response to the database process request from the proxy process server apparatus, and sends a process result to the proxy process sever apparatus (Office Action at page 4, lines 15-17). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Furumoto at paragraph [0014] describes that an access executing section 35 obtains information (a file) to which the user has been permitted to make access, and transmits this information (the file) to the user terminal. However, the access executing section 35 obtains the information based on a request from the user terminal, not *from a proxy process server apparatus*. Further, the obtained information is transmitted to the user terminal, not *to the proxy process server apparatus*.

Thus, Furumoto fails to disclose “the database access control apparatus performs a process on the database in response to the database process request *from the proxy process server apparatus*, and sends a process result *to the proxy process sever apparatus*,” as recited in Claim 1.

Last, the outstanding Office Action states that Furumoto discloses that the proxy process server apparatus performs an additional process on the process result sent from the database access control apparatus, and sends an additional process result to the user apparatus (Office Action at page 4, lines 15-17).

However, the outstanding Office Action does not refer any specific disclosure of Furumoto corresponding to the element of Claim 1.

Thus, Furumoto fails to disclose “*the proxy process server apparatus performs an additional process on the process result sent from the database access control apparatus, and sends an additional process result to the user apparatus,*” as recited in Claim 1.

Likewise, Furumoto fails to disclose at least “means for instructing the user apparatus to connect to *the proxy process server apparatus* by *sending an address of a usable proxy process server apparatus to the user apparatus* in response to a request from the user apparatus” and “means for performing a process on the database in response to a database process request *from the proxy process server apparatus*, and sending a process result *to the proxy process sever apparatus,*” as recited in Claim 4.

Likewise, Furumoto fails to disclose a proxy process server apparatus including at least “means for receiving an access key and a database access request from the user apparatus, *the access key being generated by the database access control apparatus based on a user ID of the user apparatus, being stored in the database access control apparatus and having been sent to the user apparatus*” and “means for receiving a process result of the database according to the database process request from the database access control apparatus *when an access key same as the access key sent from the proxy process server apparatus exists in the database access control apparatus*, performing an additional process on the process result, and sending an additional process result to the user apparatus,” as recited in Claim 7.

Likewise, Furumoto fails to disclose at least “a step for instructing the user apparatus to connect to *the proxy process server apparatus* by *sending an address of a usable proxy process server apparatus to the user apparatus* in response to a request from the user apparatus” and “a step for performing a process on the database in response to a database process request *from the proxy process server apparatus*, and sending a process result *to the proxy process sever apparatus,*” as recited in Claim 8.

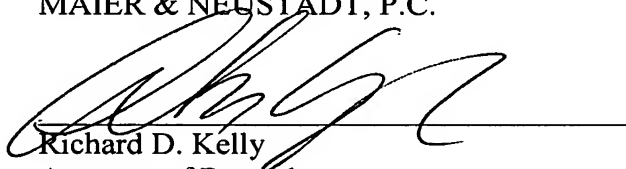
Likewise, Furumoto fails to disclose at least “a step for receiving an access key and a database access request from the user apparatus, *the access key being generated by the database access control apparatus based on a user ID of the user apparatus, being stored in the database access control apparatus and having been sent to the user apparatus*” and “a step for receiving a process result of the database according to the database process request from the database access control apparatus *when an access key same as the access key sent from the proxy process server apparatus exists in the database access control apparatus*, performing an additional process on the process result, and sending an additional process result to the user apparatus,” as recited in Claim 13.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 13 patentably distinguish over Furumoto. Therefore, Claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 13 and the pending Claims 2-3, 5-6, 9-10 and 14-22 dependent from Claims 1, 4 and 8 are believed to be allowable.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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